

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of determining a clock frequency for an electronic device installed in a system with zero or more other electronic devices, comprising:
obtaining information related to power consumption and/or heat dissipation characteristics of the electronic device and zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system;
automatically selecting a clock frequency for the electronic device based at least on the obtained information about the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system and information regarding a power consumption and/or a heat dissipation budget for the system; and
generating a clock signal for the electronic device in accordance with the selected clock frequency.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising supplying a clock signal having the automatically selected clock frequency to the electronic device.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the electronic device is connected to a bus, and further comprising supplying a clock signal having the automatically selected clock frequency to the bus.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the information about the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices comprises a number of the other electronic devices installed in the system.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the automatically selecting a clock frequency is further based on a thermal budget for the system.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the automatically selecting a clock frequency is further based on a power consumption budget for the system.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising automatically ascertaining at least some of the information about the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the automatically ascertaining at least some of the information comprises:
 - querying at least one of the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices; and
 - in response to the querying, receiving information from at least one of the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the automatically ascertaining at least some of the information comprises reading at least a portion of a memory.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the memory comprises a dual in-line package (DIP) switch.
11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising ascertaining at least some of the information about the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system through a user interface.
12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the information about the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices comprises information about an amount of heat at least one of the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices would generate in relation to a clock frequency at which the corresponding at least one of the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices would operate.
13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the electronic device is removably installed in an expansion slot.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the zero or more other electronic devices is removably installed in an expansion slot.
15. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:
a computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions capable of determining a clock frequency for an electronic device installed in a system with zero or more other electronic devices, comprising:
obtaining information related to power consumption and/or heat dissipation characteristics of the electronic device and zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system;
automatically selecting a clock frequency for the electronic device based at least on the obtained information about the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system and information regarding a power consumption and/or heat dissipation budget for the system; and
generating a clock signal for the electronic device in accordance with the selected clock frequency.
16. (Currently Amended) A frequency manager for determining a clock frequency for an electronic device installed in a system with zero or more other electronic devices, comprising:
an information input configured to obtain information related to power consumption and/or heat dissipation characteristics of the electronic device and zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system;
a frequency calculator configured to select ~~automatically selecting~~ a clock frequency for the electronic device based at least on the obtained information about the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system and information regarding a power consumption and/or heat dissipation budget for the system; and
an interface connected to the frequency calculator and to a clock signal generator, the interface configured to send ~~sending~~ commands to the clock signal generator to generate clock signals at the clock frequency selected by the frequency calculator.

17. (Original) The frequency manager of Claim 16, wherein the information about the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices comprises a number of the other electronic devices installed in the system.
18. (Original) The frequency manager of Claim 16, wherein the frequency calculator further bases the automatically selecting a clock frequency on a thermal budget for the system.
19. (Original) The frequency manager of Claim 16, wherein the frequency calculator further bases the automatically selecting a clock frequency on a power consumption budget for the system.
20. (Canceled)
21. (Currently Amended) The frequency manager of Claim ~~19~~ 16, wherein the information input is further configured to query ~~queries~~ at least one of the electronic devices to ascertain the at least some of the information about the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system.
22. (Currently Amended) The frequency manager of Claim ~~19~~ 16, further comprising a memory configured to store ~~storing~~ at least some of the information about the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system.
23. (Currently Amended) The frequency manager of Claim 21, wherein the memory comprises a dual in-line package (DIP)switch.
24. (Original) The frequency manager of Claim 16, further comprising a user interface, by which the frequency manager can ascertain at least some of the information about the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system.

25. (Original) The frequency manager of Claim 16, wherein the information about the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices comprises information about an amount of heat at least one of the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices would generate in relation to a clock frequency at which the corresponding at least one of the electronic device and the zero or more other electronic devices would operate.
26. (Original) The frequency manager of Claim 16, wherein the electronic device is removably installed in an expansion slot.
27. (Original) The frequency manager of Claim 16, wherein at least one of the zero or more other electronic devices is removably installed in an expansion slot.
28. (Currently Amended) A method of determining a clock frequency for a first and a second electronic device installed in a system with zero or more other electronic devices, the first electronic device being connected to a first bus and the second electronic device being connected to a second bus, comprising:
 - obtaining information related to power consumption and/or heat dissipation characteristics of the first and second electronic devices installed in the system;
 - automatically selecting a clock frequency for both the first and second electronic devices based at least on the obtained information about the first and second electronic devices and the zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system and information regarding a power consumption and/or heat dissipation budget for the system; and
 - generating a clock signal for the first and second electronic device in accordance with the selected clock frequency.
29. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising supplying clock signals having the automatically selected clock frequency to the first and second electronic devices, respectively.
30. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising supplying a clock signals having the automatically selected clock frequency to the first and second buses, respectively.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the information about the first and second electronic devices and the zero or more other electronic devices comprises a number of the other electronic devices installed in the system.
32. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the automatically selecting a clock frequency is further based on a thermal budget for the system.
33. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the automatically selecting a clock frequency is further based on a power consumption budget for the system.
34. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising automatically ascertaining at least some of the information about the first and second electronic devices and the zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system.
35. (Original) The method of Claim 33, wherein the automatically ascertaining at least some of the information comprises:
 - querying at least one of the first and second electronic devices; and
 - in response to the querying, receiving information from at least one of the first and second electronic devices.
36. (Original) The method of Claim 33, wherein the automatically ascertaining at least some of the information comprises reading at least a portion of a memory.
37. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 36, wherein the memory comprises a dual in-line package (DIP) switch.
38. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising ascertaining at least some of the information about the first and second electronic devices through a user interface.

39. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the information about the first and second electronic devices and the zero or more other electronic devices comprises information about an amount of heat at least one of the first and second electronic devices and the zero or more other electronic devices would generate in relation to a clock frequency at which the corresponding at least one of the first and second electronic devices and the zero or more other electronic devices would operate.
40. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein at least one of the first and second electronic devices is removably installed in an expansion slot.
41. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein at least one of the zero or more other electronic devices is removably installed in an expansion slot.
42. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:
a computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions capable of determining a clock frequency for a first and a second electronic device installed in a system with zero or more other electronic devices, the first electronic device being connected to a first bus and the second electronic device being connected to a second bus, comprising:
obtaining information related to power consumption and/or heat dissipation characteristics of the first and second electronic device installed in the system;
automatically selecting a clock frequency for both the first and second electronic devices based at least on the obtained information about the first and second electronic devices and the zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system and information regarding a power consumption and/or heat dissipation budget for the system; and
generating a clock signal for the first and second electronic device in accordance with the selected clock frequency.

43. (Currently Amended) A frequency manager for determining a clock frequency for a first and a second electronic device installed in a system with zero or more other electronic devices, the first electronic device being connected to a first bus and the second electronic device being connected to a second bus, comprising:
- an information input configured to obtain information related to power consumption and/or heat dissipation characteristics of the first and second electronic device installed in the system;
- a frequency calculator automatically ~~selecting~~ configured to select a clock frequency for both the first and second electronic devices based at least on the obtained information about the first and second electronic devices ~~and the zero or more other electronic devices~~ installed in the system and information regarding a power consumption and/or heat dissipation budget for the system; and
- an interface connected to the frequency calculator and to a first clock signal generator and a second clock signal generator, the interface configured to send ~~sending~~ commands to the first and second clock signal generators to generate clock signals at the clock frequency selected by the frequency calculator.
44. (Original) The frequency manager of Claim 43, wherein the information about the first and second electronic devices and the zero or more other electronic devices comprises a number of the other electronic devices installed in the system.
45. (Original) The frequency manager of Claim 43, wherein the frequency calculator further bases the automatically selecting a clock frequency on a thermal budget for the system.
46. (Original) The frequency manager of Claim 43, wherein the frequency calculator further bases the automatically selecting a clock frequency on a power consumption budget for the system
47. (Canceled).

48. (Currently Amended) The frequency manager of Claim ~~46~~ 43, wherein the information input queries at least one of the first and second electronic devices to ascertain the at least some of the information about the first and second electronic devices and the zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system.
49. (Currently Amended) The frequency manager of Claim 43 ~~46~~, further comprising a memory storing at least some of the information about the first and second electronic devices and the zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system.
50. (Currently Amended) The frequency manager of Claim 48, wherein the memory comprises a dual in-line package (DIP)switch.
51. (Original) The frequency manager of Claim 43, further comprising a user interface, by which the frequency manager can ascertain at least some of the information about the first and second electronic devices and the zero or more other electronic devices installed in the system.
52. (Original) The frequency manager of Claim 43, wherein the information about the first and second electronic devices and the zero or more other electronic devices comprises information about an amount of heat at least one of the first and second electronic devices and the zero or more other electronic devices would generate in relation to a clock frequency at which the corresponding at least one of the first and second electronic devices and the zero or more other electronic devices would operate.
53. (Original) The frequency manager of Claim 43, wherein at least one of the first and second electronic devices is removably installed in an expansion slot.
54. (Original) The frequency manager of Claim 43, wherein at least one of the zero or more other electronic devices is removably installed in an expansion slot.